# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# RURAL DEVELOPMENT
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:653
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2006
JATROPHA PRODUCTION
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**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the work of growing Jatropha is not being done in all the States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the funds allocated and utilized alongwith the production of Jatropha during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(e) the States which have not been allocated the funds for the purpose alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard alongwith the steps taken to promote production of Jatropha?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) to(e) At present, there is no coordinated programme for development of jatropha plantation in the country. While jatropha plants are available in the wild, they are traditionally of low productivity with less oil content. No reliable data on production and productivity of jatropha is available. Recognizing the need of developing quality seed material and taking up model plantations, the Union Ministry of Agriculture, under the aegis of National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board, has taken up the programme for development of elite planting material and model plantations of tree borne oilseeds, including jatropha, in 23 States. This programme is being implemented through the Central and State agricultural universities, national level research organizations e.g. ICAR, CSIR etc. and State Government seed farms. A statement showing the funds sanctioned and released to States during the last three years under this programme is given at Annex-I. Some State governments have taken initiative to promote jatropha on their own.

(f) The Central Government has taken steps for launching a coordinated programme, called `National Mission on Bio-Diesel`, with Ministry of Rural Development as the nodal ministry, for taking up large-scale plantations of bio-diesel producing oil- seeds e.g. jatropha, including nursery development for raising quality seedlings, and coordinating research and development (R&D) activities on these oil-seeds. The programme is proposed to be implemented in two phases. Phase-I of the Mission entails demonostration of jatropha/pongamia plantation in forest and non-forest wastelands as a Centrally sponsored scheme in all potential States. Phase-II of the National Mission would be a self-sustaining commercial programme.

As a prelude to launching of the National Mission through the Demonstration Phase (phase I), in March 2006, the Ministry of Rural Development kick-started a jatropha nursery programme for raising about 18 crore seedlings with a budgetary support of Rs.49 crore for plantation during 2006-07 in identified districts in nine States, which were selected in consultation with the Ministry of Environment & Forest, on the basis of the infrastructural facilities readily available and their readiness for taking up the programme. The State-wise physical and financial targets of the nursery programme are given at Annex - II.